

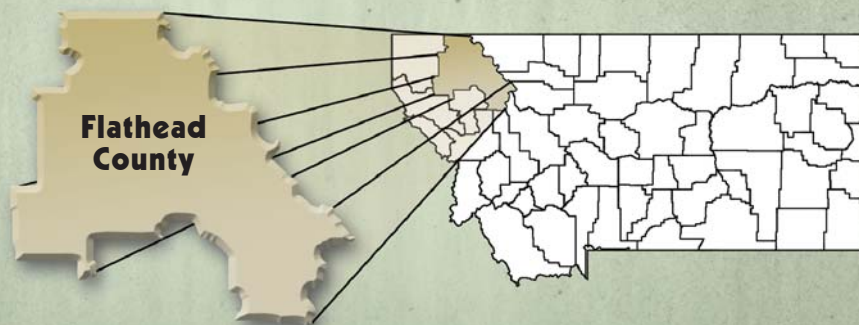
## Demographic & Economic Information for

# Flathead County



**January 2009**

*Photo courtesy of MontanaPictures.net*



Montana Department of Labor and Industry

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# Flathead County

The Flathead Valley is known as one of Montana's tourism hotspots, boasting such attractions as Glacier National Park, Flathead Lake (the largest freshwater lake in the western U.S.), the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Whitefish Mountain Resort, and the Blacktail Mountain Ski Area. Flathead County is Montana's fourth most populous county, with an estimated 86,844 residents in 2007. Kalispell, the county seat, is the state's seventh largest city, with a population estimated at 20,298 as of July 1, 2007.<sup>1</sup> Other cities and towns in Flathead County include: Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Coram, Evergreen, Hungry Horse, Lakeside, Martin City, Niarada, Somers, and Whitefish.

Flathead County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, with an estimated population increase of 16.6% from 2000 to 2007. It is also home to the three fastest growing cities in Montana: Whitefish (60.6% growth), Kalispell (42.7%), and Columbia Falls (40.4%).

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

## Resources for Flathead County

### Chambers of Commerce

**Bigfork Chamber**  
P. O. Box 237  
Bigfork, Montana 59911  
(406) 837-5888, [www.bigfork.org](http://www.bigfork.org)

**Columbia Falls Chamber**  
P. O. Box 312  
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912  
(406) 892-2072  
[www.columbiafallschamber.com](http://www.columbiafallschamber.com)

**Kalispell Chamber**  
15 Depot Park  
Kalispell, Montana 59901  
(406) 758-2800  
[www.kalispellchamber.com](http://www.kalispellchamber.com)

**Lakeside-Somers Chamber**  
P. O. Box 177  
Lakeside, Montana 59922  
(406) 844-3715  
[www.lakesidesomers.org](http://www.lakesidesomers.org)

**Whitefish Chamber**  
520 E. 2nd St.  
Whitefish, MT 59937  
(406) 862-3501,  
[www.whitefishchamber.org](http://www.whitefishchamber.org)

### Economic Development

**City of Kalispell Community Development Department**  
P. O. Box 1997, Kalispell, MT 59903  
(406) 758-7740,  
[www.kalispell.com/community](http://www.kalispell.com/community)

**Flathead Regional Business Center**  
P. O. Box 1879, Kalispell, MT 59903,  
(406) 758-6200, [wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/kalispell/bdkv7/read.html](http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/kalispell/bdkv7/read.html)

**Flathead Economic Develop. Authority**  
314 Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 257-7711, [www.dobusinessinmontana.com](http://www.dobusinessinmontana.com)

**Kalispell Small Business Develop. Center**  
15 Depot Park, Kalispell, MT 59901,  
(406) 758-2802, [www.kalispellsmallbusiness.com](http://www.kalispellsmallbusiness.com)

**Service Corps of Retired Executives**  
2 Main Street, Kalispell, MT  
59901, (406) 756-5271  
[www.score.org/explore\\_score.html](http://www.score.org/explore_score.html)

**Business Expansion And Retention (BEAR)**  
Contact: Bridgette Evans  
Phone: (406) 758-2800  
E-mail: [bridgette@kalispellchamber.com](mailto:bridgette@kalispellchamber.com)

### Newspapers

**Bigfork Eagle**  
P. O. Box 406, Bigfork, MT 59911  
(406) 837-5131  
[www.bigforkeagle.com](http://www.bigforkeagle.com)

**Hungry Horse News**  
P. O. Box 189, Columbia Falls, MT  
59912, (406) 892-2151  
[www.hungryhorsenews.com](http://www.hungryhorsenews.com)

**The Daily Inter Lake**  
727 E. Idaho St., Kalispell, MT 59904,  
(406) 755-7000  
[www.dailyinterlake.com](http://www.dailyinterlake.com)

**Whitefish Pilot**  
P. O. Box 488, Whitefish, MT 59937,  
(406) 862-3505  
[www.whitefishpilot.com](http://www.whitefishpilot.com)

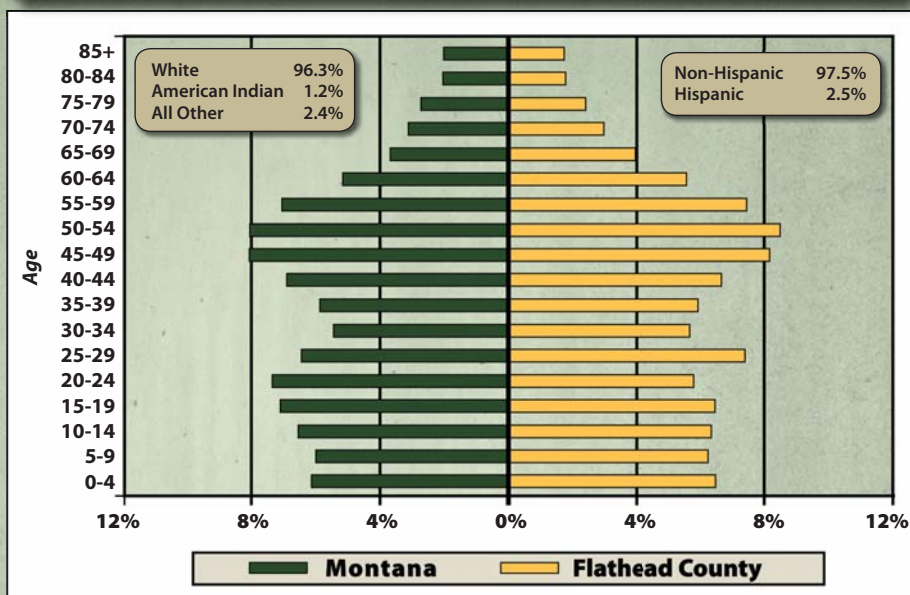
### Job Service Workforce Center

**Flathead/Lake County Job Service**  
427 First Ave. E., Kalispell, MT 59901  
Ph: (406) 758-6200, Fax: (406) 758-6290  
[wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/kalispell](http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/kalispell)

## Population for Flathead County & Related Areas

Geography	% Change 2000-2007	Population Estimates							Census
		July 1, 2007	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	July 1, 2002	July 1, 2001	April 1, 2000
Flathead County	16.6%	86,844	84,633	82,601	80,687	79,194	77,302	76,002	74,471
Columbia Falls city	40.4%	5,116	4,861	4,630	4,372	4,162	4,043	3,968	3,645
Kalispell city	42.7%	20,298	19,339	18,463	17,440	16,875	16,074	15,594	14,223
Whitefish city	60.6%	8,083	7,725	7,113	6,796	6,467	6,191	5,940	5,032
Balance of County	3.4%	53,347	52,708	52,395	52,079	51,690	50,994	50,500	51,571

## Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Flathead County, 2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Population Estimates

## Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

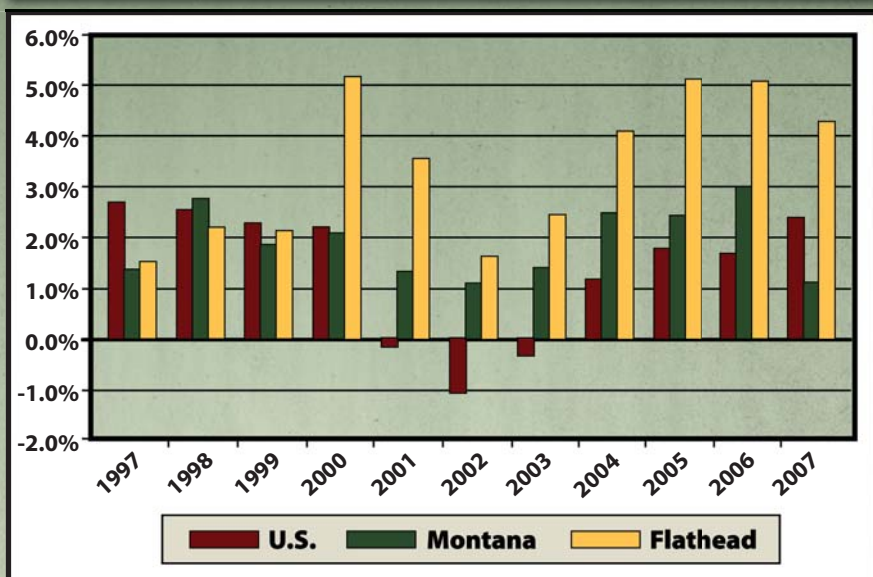
Educational Attainment	Flathead County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	12.6%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	30.6%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	27.4%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	7.0%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	16.1%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	4.3%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.4%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000



## Percent Change in Employment: 1997 to 2007

### U.S., Montana, and Flathead County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

## Top 20 Private Employers in Flathead County

### (Based on 2nd Quarter 2008 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Brendan House Skilled Nursing	6	North Valley Hospital	6
Columbia Falls Aluminum	7	Plum Creek Timber	8
Costco	6	Rocky Mountain Contractors	6
Daily Inter Lake	6	Schellinger Construction	6
Flathead Electric	6	Semitool Inc.	8
Glacier Bank	7	Smith's Food & Drug	6
Immanuel Lutheran Home	6	Super 1 Foods	7
Kalispell Regional Medical Center	9	Teletech	8
L C Staffing Service	7	Wal-Mart	7
National Flood Services	6	Workplace Inc.	7

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

## Agricultural Statistics - Flathead County

Farms	
<b>Farms: (number)</b>	1,075
Land in farms (acres)	234,861
Average size of farms (acres)	218
<b>Farms by size: (number)</b>	
Less than 1,000 acres	1,030
1,000 acres or more	45
<b>Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)</b>	
Less than \$100,000	1,006
\$100,000 or more	69
<b>Farms by type of organization: (number)</b>	
Family, Individual, Partnership	1,025
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	50
Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested	
<b>Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)</b>	
Cattle and calves	14,831
Hogs and pigs	3,344
Sheep and lambs	599
Horses and ponies	3,432
Bison	786
Chickens (layers and broilers)	1,991
<b>Crops Harvested (acres)</b>	
Corn for grain	0
Corn for silage or greenchop	0
Wheat for grain, All	23,874
Winter wheat for grain	(D)
Durum wheat for grain	(D)
Spring wheat for grain	22,454
Barley for grain	12,492
Oats for grain	910
Sunflower seed, All	0
Soybeans for beans	0
Hay, haylage, grass silage	38,968
Operator Demographics	
<b>Primary occupation: (number)</b>	
Farming	548
Other	527
<b>Place of residence: (number)</b>	
On farm operated	939
Not on farm operated	136
<b>Years on present farm: (number)</b>	
Less than 10 years	301
10 years or more	774
<b>Age group: (number)</b>	
Under 55 years	520
55 years and over	555
<b>Average age of operators: (number)</b>	55.9

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002

(D) - Not Disclosable

## Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2007

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	4,463	41,411	\$31,344
TOTAL PRIVATE	4,352	36,894	\$30,472
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	87	359	\$31,474
Crop production	13	84	\$21,597
Animal production	8	23	\$25,714
Forestry and logging	49	198	\$38,062
Agriculture & forestry support	17	54	\$25,227
MINING	17	281	\$46,541
Oil and gas extraction	2	*	*
Mining, except oil and gas	13	271	\$46,639
Support activities for mining	2	*	*
UTILITIES	10	*	*
Utilities	10	*	*
CONSTRUCTION	974	4,239	\$35,850
Construction of buildings	347	1,211	\$33,864
Heavy and civil engineering construction	66	586	\$47,824
Specialty trade contractors	561	2,442	\$33,962
MANUFACTURING	199	3,633	\$42,311
Food manufacturing	16	226	\$23,690
Beverage and tobacco product mfg	2	*	*
Textile mills	2	*	*
Textile product mills	5	16	\$11,816
Leather and allied product manufacturing	4	7	\$23,962
Wood product manufacturing	41	1,526	\$46,134
Printing and related support activities	15	120	\$24,185
Chemical manufacturing	8	34	\$24,459
Plastics & rubber products manufacturing	3	21	\$20,015
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	7	63	\$30,981
Primary metal manufacturing	4	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	39	181	\$32,481
Machinery manufacturing	4	*	*
Computer and electronic product mfg	5	99	\$41,509
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg	2	*	*
Transportation equipment manufacturing	5	33	\$28,621
Furniture and related product mfg	25	104	\$32,697
Miscellaneous manufacturing	12	26	\$28,008
WHOLESALE TRADE	128	1,075	\$41,178
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	64	550	\$44,505
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	34	458	\$34,783
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	31	67	\$57,552
RETAIL TRADE	503	6,009	\$25,566
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	59	729	\$38,707
Furniture and home furnishings stores	45	299	\$30,269
Electronics and appliance stores	34	271	\$28,053
Building material & garden supply stores	66	903	\$29,503
Food and beverage stores	35	952	\$22,029
Health and personal care stores	26	252	\$33,596
Gasoline stations	38	405	\$15,011
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	48	268	\$14,753
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	46	443	\$18,868
General merchandise stores	13	1,021	\$22,537
Miscellaneous store retailers	78	342	\$20,613
Nonstore retailers	16	127	\$33,884

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

\* Data Not Disclosable

## Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2007

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	125	720	\$30,912
Air transportation	7	56	\$23,288
Truck transportation	77	356	\$30,241
Transit and ground passenger transport	9	30	\$9,903
Scenic and sightseeing transportation	4	18	\$28,330
Support activities for transportation	17	104	\$33,558
Postal service	2	*	*
Couriers and messengers	9	117	\$38,968
Warehousing and storage	1	*	*
INFORMATION	67	697	\$38,135
Publishing industries, except Internet	18	219	\$35,838
Motion picture, sound recording industry	11	87	\$15,367
Broadcasting, except Internet	6	58	\$35,307
Telecommunications	20	263	\$45,025
ISPs, search portals, & data processing	7	63	\$54,263
Other information services	6	8	\$15,303
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	213	1,678	\$46,872
Credit intermediation & related activity	87	952	\$43,186
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	32	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	93	627	\$44,320
Funds, trusts, other financial vehicles	2	*	*
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	270	830	\$28,611
Real estate	228	521	\$30,171
Rental and leasing services	40	307	\$26,113
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible asset	3	2	\$5,400
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	413	1,359	\$39,390
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES	15	137	\$78,633
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	229	2,583	\$24,588
Administrative and support services	216	2,502	\$24,378
Waste management and remediation service	13	81	\$31,014
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	34	422	\$25,946
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	314	4,713	\$36,415
Ambulatory health care services	222	1,782	\$44,107
Hospitals	3	1,604	\$39,537
Nursing and residential care facilities	20	951	\$24,791
Social assistance	69	376	\$16,055
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	122	1,356	\$14,891
Performing arts and spectator sports	28	*	*
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	2	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	93	1,238	\$14,421
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	328	5,125	\$14,274
Accommodation	81	1,457	\$18,716
Food services and drinking places	246	3,667	\$12,508
OTHER SERVICES	306	1,477	\$20,285
Repair and maintenance	102	467	\$28,817
Personal and laundry services	51	261	\$15,985
Membership associations & organizations	116	693	\$15,853
Private households	37	56	\$24,034
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	112	4,517	\$38,465
Local Government	58	3,149	\$34,911
State Government	13	574	\$37,788
Federal Government	41	794	\$53,047

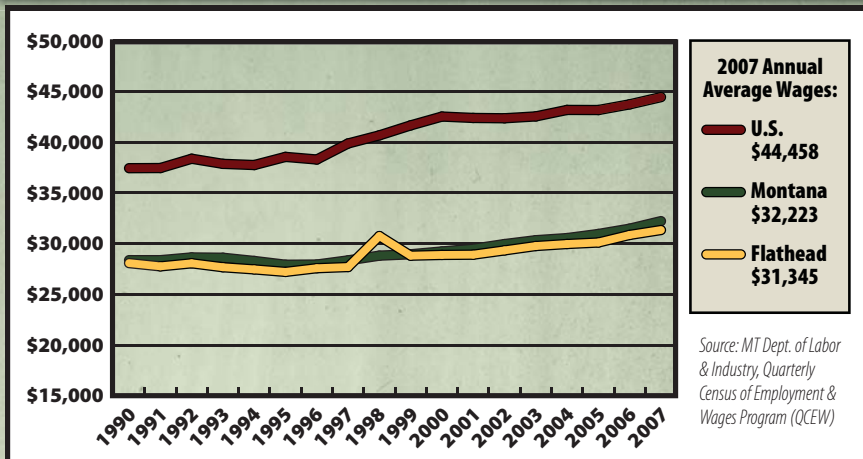
The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)

## Annual Average Labor Force - Flathead County

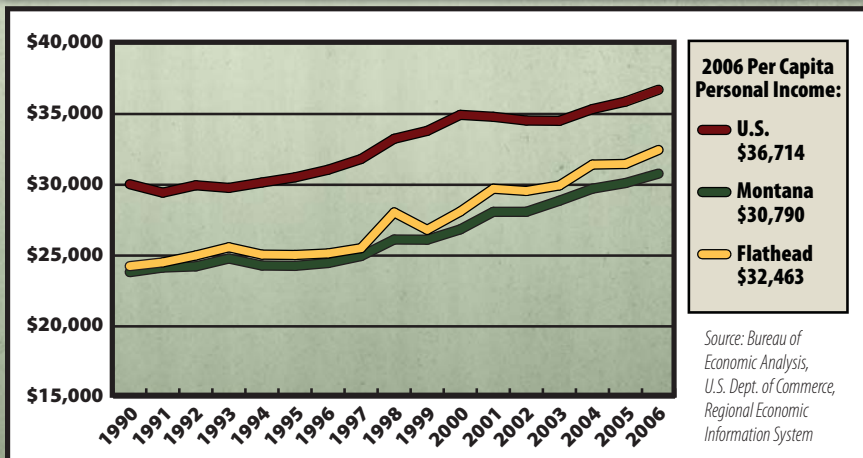
Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2007	45,777	44,174	1,603	3.5%
2006	44,329	42,714	1,615	3.6%
2005	42,685	40,868	1,817	4.3%
2004	41,474	39,380	2,094	5.0%
2003	40,433	38,246	2,187	5.4%
2002	39,895	37,826	2,069	5.2%
2001	40,158	38,051	2,107	5.2%
2000	39,328	37,264	2,064	5.2%

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

## Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2007 (In 2007 Dollars)



## Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2006 (In 2006 Dollars)



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